No.....

PURCHASED FROM THE INCOME OF THE
JOSIAH H. BENTON FUND

Presentation copy from John G. Stedman to Lieut.-Colonel Fuller, and with an original watercolour drawing by Stedman, bound in, of a negro boy, in green livery, holding a horse, with a town and the sea in the background.

"In 1772, Stedman, who was in the Scots Brigade in Holland, volunteered to accompany an expedition sent out by the States-General to subdue the revolted negroes in Dutch Guiana. His narrative of this service is a model of what such a book should be. Its rules for marching and fighting amid tropical swamps anticipate those laid down for the Ashanti expedition. The field of his curiosity embraced not only all branches of natural history, but also economical and social conditions. His description of the cruelties practised on the negroes, and of the moral deterioration resulting to their masters, [illegible] one of the most vivid indictments of slavery that have ever been [illegible] the least curious thing in the book is the story of his relations

"In September, 1656, when the Generals with the greater part of the English Fleet went to Aveiro, Stayner, then in the Speaker, was left off Cadiz in command of a small squadron of some six or seven ships.

On 8th September he fell in with the Spanish treasure fleet which, having information from a prize that the English had left the coast, was pushing on for Cadiz in such perfect confidence that, it is said, the Spaniards supposed Stayner's ships to be fishing-vessels; yet three of Stayner's ships at least, the Speaker, Bridgwater, and Plymouth, were each of more than 900 tons.

Nothing could be done that night, and the next morning several of Stayner's ships had fallen to leeward. He had only three with him, but these were the powerful ships just named; and as they were now within twelve miles of Cadiz, he judged that delay was unadvisable, and attacked the Spaniards about nine o'clock in the forenoon.

"Of the four capital ships in the Spanish fleet, one escaped and ran for Cadiz, but struck on a rock and went to the bottom. The three others were captured, but two of them caught fire and were burnt with all their cargo and a great part of their men. The fourth remained in the possession of the English; some of the other ships also being taken.

"The value of the prize to the captors was estimated at about £600,000; but it was stated by the Spaniards that their loss was not less than nine million dollars, or nearly two millions sterling.

"The news of this tremendous blow reached England early in October. An official narrative of it was published on 4th October, and a thanksgiving service ordered to be held on the 8th in all the churches in London and Westminster."

NO COPY IN THE CHURCH CATALOGUE.

A TRUE NARRATIVE OF THE LATE SUCCESS

WHICH

It hath pleaſed God to give to ſome part of the Fleet of this COMMON-WEALTH, upon the SPANISH Coaſt, againſt the King of *SPAINS* Weſt-India Fleet, in its return to *CADIZ*:

Being the ſubſtance, of ſeveral Letters writ and ſent by the Generals of the Fleet upon this occaſion.

Saturday, the 4. of *October*, 1656.

ORdered by the Parliament, That this Narrative be forthwith Printed and Publiſhed.

Hen: Scobell, Clerk of the Parliament.

London, Printed by *Henry Hills*, and *John Field*, Printers to His Highneſs, the Lord Protector. 1656.

Acc. 94-23

A true Narrative of the late Succeſs which it hath pleaſed God to give to ſome part of the Fleet of this Commonwealth, upon the Spaniſh Coaſt, againſt the King of *Spains* Weſt-India Fleet, in its return to *Cadiz*; being the ſubſtance of ſeverall Letters writ and ſent by the Generals of the Fleet upon this occaſion.

Even ſhips in the ſervice of the King of Spain (being four of the Kings own Fleet, and three Merchants) coming from the Weſt Indies, moſt of them richly laden with Gold, Silver, Pearle and other Commodities, viz. The Admiral Don Marquis Del porto General, the vice Admiral a Gallion, Don Franciſco De Eſquevel Commander, The Rere Admiral a Gallion Don Franciſco Del Hayo Commander, a ſhip Commanded by Captain John Rhodrignes Caldron, a ſhip Commanded by Captain John De La Tour, Another ſmall man of War, and a veſſel of advice from the Vice Roy of Mexico to Spain, They did in fifty eight daies proceed ſo far as within a few Leagues of Cadiz, without making Land or touching at any place during the voyage, having in their

way betwixt the Western Islands and Massagam in Affrick, seized upon a small Portugall as Prize, by whom receiving a false information, that the Spaniards had beaten the English Fleet from off their Coast a Moneth before; they sailed with much confidence towards Cadiz as not expecting opposition.

The greatest part of the English Fleet, were at this time gone to the Bay of Wyers, in Portugall (where they arrived the eleventh of September last) to recruit their Wants, and to be in a way of further Orders, the Generals leaving behind them a Squadron of Six or Seven Ships (to have an eye upon Cadiz) under the command of Captain Stayner, Captain of the Speaker Frigot, Which Squadron on the eight of September last, plying to Sea, being forced thither by a strong Westerly winde, did at the evening of the day Discover the said Spanish-Fleet, five or six Leagues to the Westward of Cadiz: And the approach of the night denying opportunity of present action, they endeavoured to fall in with them the next day, Which accordingly they did about nine of the clock in the morning (they seeming to the Spaniards to be Fisher-boats) But there being a fresh Gale that night, all but three of the Squadron were to the Leeward, and could not presently come in, and finding it to be the Spanish-Fleet come from the Indies, the Speaker, the Bridgwater, and the Plimouth Frigots (not thinking it advisable to stay for the rest of the Squadron, they being within four Leagues of Cadiz) engaged with the Fleet, and a sharp dispute there was betwixt them; The Admirall being a small ship, and it being conceived that the placing of

the

the Flag upon her, might be in policy to divert them, from attending the Ships of better value, they slighted her, and suffered her (with the Portugall Prize) to go into Cadiz Bay, where (its said) she was run on shore and sunk, being reported to have in her Six hundred thousand pieces of Eight: The Vice Admirall (being reported to have in her Six hundred thousand pieces of Eight; besides in Jewels and Plate, upon the accompt of the Marquess of Badex, to the value of Five hundred thousand pieces of eight) having fought six hours, was taken by our Ships, and after set on fire by the Spaniards themselves, and so burnt down, and sunk, and in her were destroyed, One hundred and ten men, the principall of whom was the Marquess of Badex, who with his wife and eldest daughter were burnt: The Rear-Admirall was taken and remains in our possession: The ship under command of Captain John Rodrignes Caldron, which was said to have in her Sugar, Tobacco and Plate, to the value of Six hundred thousand pieces of Eight, was taken, and in the bringing off was, by an accidental fire, burnt and sunk: The ship under command of De La Tour, Twelve thousand West India Hides, and some quantities of Sugar, is taken, and in our possession. The small man of War (having in her the like lading with the last mentioned) and the Advice Vessell being of no force or lading, are said to escape into Gibralter. The value of what is taken and possessed, is not justly known; But by the Calculation of the Spaniards there are taken and lost about Nine Millions of pieces of Eight, besides the said Ships and their Lading, there are ma-

ny prisoners taken, Three hundred and fifty being found in the Rear Admirall, and about Ninety saved out of the Vice Admirall, among whom there are the eldest Son, a younger son, and two daughters of the said Marquess (besides a child) As also Don Diego De Villa Alva, the Governour of the Havanna, and severall others of quality, and Spanish Merchants: And as all this was done, without the loss of one vessell of the English, so it pleased the Wisdome of God, to chuse to effect so great a Work, by a little force: As also by suffering the Enemy to be foolishly ensnared into a presumptious confidence, by an Enemies information, on which they so relyed, that they neglected the haling of a Vessell which came from St. Lucaz, and might have informed them of the truth.

By this Narrative We see that the Lord whose right hand hath been heretofore so glorious in power, for the help of his poor People in these Nations, in the time of their saddest dangers, When their Enemies at home expected to have satisfied their Lusts in their ruine, hath again appeared on their behalf in this day of their need by blowing with his Winds, and causing the Sea to cover their Enemies abroad; so that they have sunk as Lead into the mighty Waters, which gives abundant cause to say, who is like unto the Lord, for he hath triumphed Gloriously; and as the Eminency of this Mercy, in Weakening the common Enemy of Religion (The King of Spain, With whom this Commonwealth is engaged in a just and necessary War) and in encouraging and strengthning the hands of his Servants, in a vigorous prosecution of that engagement, is much heightned by

the

the freenes of it (being extended to us, a froward unbelieving and unthankfull People, who had just cause, rather to expect from the Lord, a renewing of his strokes, and to be still kept under his rebukes, then that he should return to us in loving kindness, and tender Mercy, as he hath done in this late dispensation) so also is this Mercy the more magnified by the suitableness and seasonableness of it, when his People were laid low in their own thoughts and expectations, and lower in the eyes and hearts of some, that were Lookers on, so that we have cause in some measure, to say with the Psalmist, Lord thou hast been favourable to thy Land, thou hast brought back the Captivity of Jacob, thou hast taken away thy wrath, thou hast turned thy self from the fierceness of thine Anger.

And as we have Cause to remember his Goodness, so occasion is hereby also given to his People, to acknowledge his Sovereignty, and the unsearchableness of his Judgements. He doth whatsoever he pleaseth both in Heaven and in Earth, the Sea and in all deep places, and for this end that men may learn to fear before him; He will render vengeance to his Enemies, and his salvation is nigh to them that trust in him, both which deserve to be had in everlasting remembrance, and to render him fearfull in praises.

Therefore His Highness & the Parliament, looking upon themselves, and all the People of God in these Nations, as obliged to all humble returns of praise and acknowledgement to the Lord, who hath been thus with them in their necessity, Have thought fit to appoint Wednesday being the fifth of November next to be observed and kept, as a Day of Publique Thanksgiving

giving for the mercies vouchsafed as aforesaid, in all places within England, Scotland and Ireland: And do order that the Ministers of the several Congregations, do on the Lords-day next before the said fifth day of November, give notice hereof in their several Churches and Chappels; And upon the said fifth day of November, read this Narrative and Order before the Sermon, for the better stirring up of the hearts of the People to praise God in respect thereof.

Saturday the 4. of *October*, 1656.

ORdered by the Parliament, That this Narrative be forthwith Printed and Published.

646 *Hen: Scobel, Clerk of the Parliament.*